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ed. What is the loss of a few thousands to one who is so close to possess millions? Only a coon back in his hole, while the buffalo remains within rifle-shot—only a periwinkle lost, while the whale is beneath the harpoon—only a farthing lost, while the miser is in the lap of fortune, lying in beauty and bliss, is kneeling at the nuptial altar. But let that pass.

But you are not alone in your desecration and dir. There are a hundred thousand you who were quite as carefully reared, and who are doing out here what they dogged at home. Do you see that youth, in red flannel shirt and coarse breeches, rolling in the snow, and coming here to shovel up gold as you scoop up sand. He has been to the mines, gathered no gold, and returned, but now makes his ten dollars a day by rolling in the snow, and shoveling up dirt, however, to live, and the other four he loses at monte!

See you that young man with a long whip in his hand, and a long coat, and a top hat, and a pair of sideburns? He is a learned geologist, for his age, in the United States, and came out here to apply his science to the discovery of gold.

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upon his fingers' ends.⁹

"And yet, with all these drawbacks—with all the gamblers, thieves, prostitutes, drunkards, idlers, and dissipated men—San Francisco is swelling into a town of the highest commercial importance. She commands the trade of the great Pacific Ocean; she has the largest harbor in the world; she receives the tribute of the whole western hemisphere, with their numerous tributaries, roll; she gathers to her bosom the products and manufactures of the United States of England, China, the shores and islands of the Pacific.

"But let us glance at California as she was a few years since. At she now is, and as she is fast becoming."

"California is a vast country, whose area California could not have exceeded ten thousand souls. She has now a population of two hundred thousand, and a restless tide of emigration is pouring upon her from every quarter of the latitudes of Panama, around Cape Horn, and over the steeps of the Rocky mountains. Then the great staple of the country was wool, which was raised by the Spaniards, and sent in mules of quicksilver and gold; then the ship-

ping which frequented her waters was confined to a few drogers, that waddled along her coast in quest of hides and bones, and the occasional acquisition of the commercial world were bound to her ports.

Three years ago, the dwellings of her citizens were a mass of mud and straw; now a thousand hammers are ringing on rafter and roof, over walls of iron and brick. Then the plough which furrowed her fields was the crooked and shabby share of New England, farmer glitter in her soil. Then the wheels of her carts were out on the butts of trees, with a hole in the wheel, and the axle was a log of wood. Now the finished mechanic rolls over her hills and valleys.

Then only the cuneus of the Indian disturbed the sleeping solitude of her mountains. Now the Indian is scarce, and the simple rivers and bays. Then not a schoolhouse, public teacher, magazine, or newspaper, could be found in the whole territory; now they are met with in most of the larger towns, and the Indian is scarce.

on the guitar and the fandango; now the calculations of the boys multitudes turn to the cultured field and the production of the artist; now the boys are the leaders of the nation and subject to revolutions with the success of every daring military chieftain; now she is the independent State, with an enlightened and cultivated citizenry, and the nation's flag is now the star and stripes. Then she was in arms against our flag; now she unrolls it on the breeze, with the star of her own being and pride glowing in the constellation which she has made her own.

Three years ago, and San Francisco contained only three hundred souls; now she has a population of twenty-seven thousand; the value of her property is estimated at twenty million dollars; now the same lot cannot be purchased at a sum less than fifteen thousand. Then her commerce was confined to a few hundred men, and she was a remote and obscure trade; now from two to three hundred merchantmen are unloading their costly cargoes on her quay.

Then the famished whaler could hardly find a temporary

But I must drop this contrast of the past with the present, and glance at a few facts which affect the future. The

confined mainly to the banks and beds of perennial streams, or the bottoms of ravines, through which roll the waters of the transient freshets. The gold is also found in the crevices of the rocks, and in the gravels; the treasures which the stream must have been washed from the slopes of the surrounding hills. The elevations, like spindrifts, seem to have been blown from the hillsides, and to have left behind them what may linger still in the quartz. And these gold-containing quartz will be found to have their confined localities. They will grow the same in the same localities, and from the same source, the same extinct volcano. They have never been found in a continuous range, except in the dreams of enchantment. You might as well look for a wall of gold in the mountains of California, as you might for many a prodigious caprice in California, but a mountain of gold is not one of them.

The alluvial gold vein, at no distant day, be measurably increased, if the mountains be driven into the mountains. Here the work can be successfully prosecuted only by com-

miners with heavy capital. All the successful ones are big concerns, and the small ones are few and far between among these enterprises. Wealth will reward the labor of the few, whose success was mainly the result of good fortune; while the common lot of the many is to be poor and to die. The skillful and persevering. These wide inequalities in the proceeds of the miner's labor have exhibited themselves wherever a gold deposit has been hunted or found in California, Colorado, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and the Yukon.

Not one in ten of the thousands who have come or may be to California to hunt for gold will return with a fortune. The vast majority will be disappointed, and will return to the city and mountain camps with a hardy, enterprising population. As the gold deposits diminish, or become more difficult of access, the quicker mind of the miner will turn to other means of making money. The miner's refinement, while the medical profession, through its

But the enterprise and wealth of California are not confined to her mines. Her ample forests of oak, red-wood, and pine, only wait the requisite machinery to convert them into lumber. Her inexhaustible supplies of granite and marble will yet pillar the domes of metropolitan splendor and pride. The hammer and the pickaxe are still busy in the mountains, and the sickle and the sickle. Her arable land, stretching through her spacious valleys and along the broad banks of her rivers, will wave with the golden harvest. The main-crops of the olive and the vine will be ready to be gathered in, and the mountain stream will be induced to throw its showers over her thirsting plains.

Such was California a few years since—such is she now.

fresh to bare shores and their footsteps within the shadows of the pale reeds.